



Representative Scott Plakon

Florida House of Representatives, District 37

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AIRLINE SAFETY AND WILDLIFE PROTECTION LEGISLATION PASSES FLORIDA HOUSE

TALLAHASSEE – Legislation to protect the safety of air travelers and preserve Florida’s wildlife was passed unanimously by the Florida House of Representatives today. House Bill (HB) 1065, known as the Airline Safety and Wildlife Protection Act of Florida, is sponsored by Representative Scott Plakon (R-Longwood).

“I applaud my colleagues in passing this very important legislation. Once again, the Florida House has demonstrated leadership in a very important area of public safety. This bill will provide badly needed tools for Airports to manage wildlife in a responsible way and to protect the health, safety and wellbeing of the traveling public. This bill will decrease the numbers of people, property and wildlife involved in bird strikes in Florida and prevent incidents such as what happened in January to US Airways flight 1549,” said Representative Plakon.

“This is a huge step for the State of Florida and the Nation. Bird-strikes are a major problem for airports throughout the country and I am proud that Florida has taken this first huge step in helping airports manage wildlife. I believe this legislation can be a model for the rest of the country. By working together, we can significantly decrease the number of bird-strikes and greatly improve the safety of the public,” said Larry Dale, CEO of the Orlando Sanford International Airport and host of the 2008 International Bird Strike Conference.

The Airline Safety and Wildlife Protection Act of Florida encourages the safe and biologically sound management of wildlife on Florida’s public and private airports so that managers and operators clearly meet the legal responsibilities placed on them by overlapping federal, state and local regulations. The bill ensures airport managers can successfully implement their wildlife management plans.

The Senate companion to HB 1065 is SB 1864 by Senator Baker.

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